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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
AGRE-00 /094 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6921
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU,US
SUBJ: FOREIGN RELATIONS: INITIAL GREEK REACTION TO SENATE VOTE
ON THE EMBARGO

1. ALL ATHENS PAPERS ON JULY 26 GAVE PROMINENT HEADLINES
TO THE SENATE VOTE TO LIFT THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO WHICH
WAS FIRST REPORTED IN EARLY MORNING RADIO NEWSCASTS.
THE COVERAGE STRESSED THIS RESULT AS A PERSONAL SUCCESS
FOR PRESIDENT CARTER WHO HAS PUT HIS PRESTIGE ON THE LINE
ON THIS ISSUE. THE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR LIFTING
THE EMBARGO BY THE EEC WAS ALSO FEATURED IN MOST NEWSPAPER
ACCOUNTS.

2. AMONG MORNING NEWSPAPERS, INDEPENDENT, BUT USUALLY
PRO-GOVERNMENT, KATHIMERINI'S STORY INCLUDED
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STATEMENTS BY SENATORS BENTSEN, EAGLETON AND CHURCH DURING
THE DEBATE. SOURCES IN SENATOR SARBANES' OFFICE
WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EHE SENATE VOTE DID NOT MATTER
ALL THAT MUCH SINCE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REMAINED
DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE, WITH 80 VOTES ALLEGEDLY STILL
UNDECIDED. US GOVERNMENT SOURCES WERE SAID TO AGREE
WITH THIS ESTIMATE WHILE EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT

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THE ISSUE WOULD BE DECIDED IN THE HOUSE BY ONE OR TWO VOTES IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO. KATHIMERINI, LIKE THE OTHER MORNING PAPERS, ALSO MENTIONED THE BYRD-MCGOVERN AMENDMENT BUT WITHOUT MUCH DETAIL OTHER THAN THAT MILITARY AID FOR GREECE WOULD BE RAISED TO $175 MILLION.

3. IN OTHER COVERAGE, PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS SOUNDED A DISCORDANT NOTE IN ITS HEADLINE SAYING THE VOTE WAS "57 FOR TURKEY AND 42 FOR GREECE". LEFTIST PROINI ELEFTHEROTYPIA NOTED THAT "CARTER CONVINCES THE CONGRESS." COMMUNIST (PRO-MOSCOW) RIZOSPASTIS SAID THAT "THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS HEAT UP THE ARMS RACE" WITH THE SENATE VOTE AND OBJECTED TO THE "BRUTAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES IN OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS". MOST NEWSPAPERS NOTED THAT THE VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEXT WEEK.

4. THE AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS CONTINUED THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD COVERAGE OF THE SENATE VOTE, WHILE ALSO NOTING PASOK CHAIRMAN ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S STATEMENT (SEE BELOW) DENOUNCING IT. LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA GAVE PAP-ANDREOU'S VIEWS THE MOST PROMINENT COVERAGE, WITH HEAD-LINES THAT "ATTILA (THE CODE NAME FOR THE 1974 TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS) GOT THE PRIZE". ALTHOUGH MOST NEWSPAPERS AVOIDED ANY PREDICTION ON THE VOTE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

HOUSE, THE HEADLINE IN PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI, "THE EMBARGO IS FINISHED", SEEMED TO SUM UP THE PRESENT VIEWS OF THE GREEK PRESS ON THE EMBARGO'S ULTIMATE FATE.

5. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO COMMENT ON THE SENATE ACTION SO FAR ALTHOUGH IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED A STATEMENT IS LIKELY LATER THIS EVENING. NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT. IN HIS STATEMENT, PAPANDREOU SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THE VOTE. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD WORKED HARD TO BRING IT ABOUT, HE POINTED OUT, AS HAD THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY OF THE US, NATO, THE EEC AND PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE WEST. THE VOTE REWARDED "ATTILA", HE SAID, AND CONFIRMED THE IMPERIALISTIC AND AGGRESSIVE CHARACTER OF THE US AND NATO. ALL GREEKS NOW KNOW WHERE "WE BELONG TO THE WEST" (A QUOTE FROM PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS) IS TAKING US AND REALIZE THAT WE NEED A NEW FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY. THE TIME HAS COME FOR CHANGE AND TO CHART A NEW INDEPENDENT GREEK POLICY, HE CONCLUDED.
MILLS

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